

Application No. 10/726,522

Attorney Docket No. XA-10008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A steering column apparatus comprising:

a steering shaft having ~~its~~ a rear end to which a steering wheel is secured;

a steering column ~~supporting~~ rotatably supporting said steering shaft and ~~being of adjustable~~ of its length in axial directions thereof together with said steering shaft; and

a telescopic position fixing mechanism operable to fix means for fixing said steering column to a desired length,

wherein said steering column ~~is constructed of~~ includes an outer column fixed on a ~~car~~ vehicle body side and an inner column ~~slidably~~ telescopically fitted in said outer column,

said telescopic position fixing ~~means is constructed of~~ mechanism includes a lock housing ~~formed~~ disposed on said outer column, first and second press blocks, each slidably held ~~by~~ within a bore of said lock housing, a bolt passing through said first and second press blocks, said first and second press blocks having said bolt non-threadably received therein so as to be slidable on said

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bolt and being movable toward and away from each other to  
press and release ~~and moving forwards and backwards in a~~  
~~way that embraces an outer peripheral surface of said~~  
inner column so as to fix and release the telescopic  
position of said steering column, and a presses block  
driving means for bringing mechanism operable to move  
said first and second press blocks into a press contact  
with said inner column, and toward and away from each  
other,

said press block driving means ~~includes mechanism~~  
including a fixed first cam provided on said second press  
block, a rotatable cam facing said fixed first cam, a  
fastening lever used for rotating said rotatable cam, and  
interval regulating ~~means for regulating members which~~  
regulate an interval between said rotatable cam and said  
first press block.

2. (Currently Amended) A steering column apparatus  
according to claim 1, wherein said press block driving  
~~means mechanism~~ includes a biasing means device which biases  
for biasing said first press block and said second press  
block ~~in such a direction as to be separated away from each~~  
other.

3. (Currently Amended) A steering column apparatus  
according to claim 1, wherein said fixed first cam is  
~~made~~ integral with said second press block.

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4. (Currently Amended) A steering column apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said press block driving ~~means~~ mechanism further includes an inclined guide member, formed in said lock housing, ~~for assisting to facilitate movement of~~ at least one of said first and second press blocks away from the ~~to descend or ascend in such a direction as to be separated away from said inner column on such an occasion that said first and second press blocks are separated away from each other.~~

5. (Canceled)

6. (New) A steering column apparatus comprising:  
a steering shaft having a rear end to which a steering wheel is secured;  
a steering column rotatably supporting said steering shaft and being of adjustable length in axial directions thereof together with said steering shaft, said steering column including an outer column fixed on a vehicle body side and an inner column telescopically fitted in said outer column; and

a telescopic position fixing mechanism operable to fix said steering column to a desired length, said telescopic position fixing mechanism including a lock housing disposed on said outer column, first and second press blocks, each slidably fitted within a bore formed through said lock housing in a vehicle body widthwise direction, a bolt passing through said first and second

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press blocks, said first and second press blocks having said bolt non-threadably received therein so as to be slidable on said bolt and being movable toward and away from each other to press and release said inner column so as to fix and release the telescopic position of said steering column, and a press block driving mechanism operable to control movement of said first and second press blocks,

wherein said press block driving mechanism includes an interval regulating mechanism having a first regulating member and a second regulating member provided at respective end portions of said bolt so as to regulate movements, along an axis of the bolt, of said first and second press blocks to a predetermined interval, said first regulating member being in direct contact with said first press block to regulate movement thereof along the bolt axis, a distance adjusting mechanism provided between said second regulating member and said second press block for changing a distance therebetween, an operating lever for operating the distance adjusting mechanism to change said distance between said second regulating member and said second press block, and a biasing device which biases said first press block and said second press block away from each other,

wherein when said distance adjusting mechanism is operated to make the distance between said second regulating member and said second press block larger, the

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first and second press blocks are moved toward each other so as to press the outer surface of said inner column, and when said distance adjusting mechanism is operated to make the distance between said second regulating member and said second press block smaller, said first and second press blocks are moved away from each other so as to release the pressure on said inner column.

7. (New) A steering column apparatus comprising;  
a steering shaft having a rear end to which a steering wheel is secured;

a steering column rotatably supporting said steering shaft and being of adjustable length in axial directions thereof together with said steering shaft, said steering column including an outer column fixed on a vehicle body side and an inner column telescopically fitted in said outer column; and

a telescopic position fixing mechanism operable to fix said steering column to a desired length, said telescopic position fixing mechanism including a lock housing disposed on said outer column, first and second press blocks, each slidably fitted within a bore formed through said lock housing in a vehicle body widthwise direction, a bolt passing through said first and second press blocks, said first and second press blocks having said bolt non-threadably received therein so as to be slidable on said bolt and being movable toward and away from each other to press and release said inner column so

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as to fix and release the telescopic position of said steering column, and a press block driving mechanism operable to control movement of said first and second press blocks,

wherein said press block driving mechanism includes an interval regulating mechanism having a first regulating member and a second regulating member provided at respective end portions of said bolt so as to regulate movements, along an axis of the bolt, of said first and second press blocks to a predetermined interval, said first regulating member being in direct contact with said first press block to regulate movement thereof along the bolt axis, a first cam fixedly provided on said second press block and fitted slidably on the bolt, a rotatable cam disposed between the first cam and the second regulating member to face said first cam, a fastening lever used for rotating said rotatable cam, and a biasing device which biases said first press block and said second press block away from each other,

wherein when said cams are moved away from each other, said first and second press blocks are moved toward each other so as to press said inner column, and when said cams are moved toward each other, said first and second press blocks are moved away from each other so as to release the pressure on said inner column.